

a first valve attached to the proximal end of the first tube and in sealable fluid communication with the first tube; and

a second valve attached to the distal end of the first tube and in sealable fluid communication with the first tube.

2. (Original) The flush tool of claim 1, wherein, the first tube is configured to encompass a portion of a catheter and the first valve and second valve are each configured to sealably engage the catheter.

3. (Original) The flush tool of claim 1, wherein the first valve comprises a sealing member attached to the proximal end of the first tube and an actuating member slidably engaged with the sealing member which opens the sealing member when compressed with the sealing member.

4. (Original) The flush tool of claim 3, wherein the second valve comprises a sealing member attached to the distal end of the first tube and an actuating member slidably engaged with the sealing member which opens the sealing member when compressed with the sealing member.

5. (Original) The flush tool of claim 3, wherein the first valve further comprises a spring which biases the actuating member away from the sealing member, thereby biasing the first valve into a sealed condition.

6. (Original) The flush tool of claim 4, wherein the second valve further comprises a spring which biases the actuating member away from the sealing member, thereby biasing the second valve into a sealed condition.

7. (Original) The flush tool of claim 4, wherein the first valve further comprises a first tab on the actuating member, and the second valve further comprises a second tab, whereby the first valve and the second valve may be simultaneously actuated by gripping both the first tab and the second tab.

8. (Original) The flush tool of claim 1, wherein the first valve comprises a sealing member attached to the proximal end of the first tube and an actuating member rotatably engaged with the sealing member and configured to seal the valve by rotating about the sealing member.

9. (Original) The flush tool of claim 1, wherein the second valve comprises a sealing member attached to the distal end of the first tube and an actuating member rotatably engaged with the sealing member and configured to seal the valve by rotating about the sealing member.

10. (Original) The flush tool of claim 1, wherein the first tube is formed of a transparent material, whereby items within the first tube may be visually inspected.

11. (Original) The flush tool of claim 1, wherein the flush tube is equipped with a means for attaching to a fluid source.

12. (Original) A system for flushing a catheter, comprising:
a catheter having an auxiliary lumen extending from a distal end of the catheter to a side port in the catheter;
a flush tool having a proximal end and a distal end mounted on the catheter over the side port;
a first fluid-tight seal located near the proximal end of the flush tool and sealed about the catheter;
a second fluid-tight seal located near the distal end of the flush tool and sealed about the catheter; and
a flush port attached to the flush tool;
whereby introducing pressurized fluid into the flush port will evacuate air from the auxiliary lumen of the catheter.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the flush tool is removable from the catheter by unsealing the first fluid-tight seal and the second fluid-tight seal.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12, further comprising:
a guide wire extending through the auxiliary lumen.

15. (Original) The system of claim 12, further comprising:
an intraluminal device within the auxiliary lumen which impedes the flow of fluid
therethrough.

16. (Original) The system of claim 12, further comprising:
a syringe connected to and in fluid communication with the flush port.

17. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the first fluid-tight seal and the
second fluid-tight seal may be independently and repeatedly sealed and unsealed.

18. (Original) The system of claim 12, whereby introducing vacuum pressure on the
flush port will draw fluid into the auxiliary lumen at the distal end of the catheter through to the
side port.

19. (Original) A method of flushing air from the guide wire lumen of a rapid
exchange catheter wherein the guide wire lumen extends from a side access in the catheter to the
distal end of the catheter, comprising the steps of:

placing a flush tool having a flush port over the catheter,
sealing the flush tool to the catheter distally from the side access;
sealing the flush tool to the catheter proximally from the side access; and
introducing pressurized fluid into the flush port.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:
introducing pressurized fluid into the flush port prior to sealing the flush tool to the
catheter to force air out of the flush tool.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the rapid exchange catheter includes
a guide wire disposed throughout the guide wire lumen.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:
disposing an introducer sheath within the flush tool prior to placing the flush tool over the
catheter; and
removing the introducer sheath from the flush tool after placing the flush tool over the
catheter.

23. (New) A flush tool for medical catheters, comprising:
a first tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end;
a second tubular member having a flush port at a first end and a second end which
is connected to the first tubular member between the proximal and distal ends of the first tubular
member;
a first valve configured to independently seal and unseal the proximal end of the
first tubular member; and

a second valve configured to independently seal and unseal the distal end of the first tubular member.

24. (New) The flush tool of claim 23, wherein the second tubular member is in continuous fluid communication with the first tubular member.

25. (New) The flush tool of claim 23, wherein the first tubular member is configured to slidably enclose a catheter disposed throughout the first tubular member.

26. (New) The flush tool of claim 25, wherein the first and second valves are configured to seal the first tubular member around the catheter disposed throughout the first tubular member without obstructing the catheter.

27. (New) The flush tool of claim 2, wherein the first valve and the second valve do not obstruct the catheter when sealably engaged.

28. (New) The flush tool of claim 1, wherein the first valve and the second valve are sealable and unsealable independent of each other.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicants have submitted formal drawings for Figures 1-10. These drawings are intended to replace the informal hand sketches of Figures 1-10 submitted with the Application. No substantive changes have been included and no new matter is submitted. Applicants request these formal drawings be reviewed and accepted.